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WITHIN OUR BORDERS

Resources and Industries

Opening of Athabasca Bridge

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History Made In North

$470,000 Bridge Across Athabasca River Opened

Highways Minister And Aged Indian Saw Log To Open Bridge; Colorful Parade And Picturesque Pioneers Highlight Celebration

The new Alberta Government bridge across the Athabasca river, which will stimulate the development of the country north of the river, was opened officially June 9 with an enthusiastic celebration by more than 5,000 residents of Athabasca and district.

Construction on the bridge, which replaces a ferry which had been in operation since 1906, began Dec. 1, 1950 and was completed on March 31, 1952. A crew of 30 men from the Bridge Branch of the Department of Highways built the bridge and the Bridge Branch also designed the structure.

The new bridge is of the through-truss type with two 100-feet steel spans, three 200-feet steel spans and four 28-foot treated timber approach spans. The Athabasca bridge is supported by concrete piers and abutments built on solid rock, 10 to 12 feet below the stream bed. Total length is 920 feet and the clear roadway width is 24 feet. Two 20-ton trucks travelling abreast can cross the bridge at the same time. Bridge decking is of laminated and creosoted material with a strip deck of one-inch asphalt plank. Estimated cost of the bridge is $470,000, which includes the cost of building dirt approaches on both sides.

More than 150,000 vehicles will cross the new bridge this year, Hon. Gordon E. Taylor, Minister of Highways, predicted in his speech formally opening the bridge.

He said that in 1906, when the first ferry scow was put into operation across the Athabasca River at Athabasca, a total of 150 persons using the ferry during the season was a good record. In 1941, the ferry was used by 10,338 vehicles and 34,100 passengers. In 1951, the last year in which the ferry plied its way across the broad river, the total traffic was 128,865 persons and vehicles.

"This bridge symbolizes the vast difference between the past and the future and the past and the present," Mr. Taylor said. "A great change is taking place in the north. The volume of traffic across the new bridge in coming years will increase tremendously."

The bridge was dedicated by Rev. Gordon Heast, Archdeacon Howlyn Humphreys and Rev. Father Frederick Galbraith. B. W. Bellamy, President of the Athabasca and District Board of Trade, was master of ceremonies for the bridge opening ceremony. Other speakers were Gordon Lee, M.L.A. for Athabasca; R. E. Hall, Mayor of Athabasca; L. G. Grimble, Chief Bridge Engineer of the Department of Highways; J. Gordon Morris, Secretary of the Industrial Development Board; Gordon Harps, foreman of the bridge building crew; Don Ritchie, District Engineer, and Tony Olosio, Reeve of the Municipal District of Athabasca.

Mr. Taylor and Jean Baptiste, a 94-year-old Indian from Calling Lake, got together on opposite ends of a cross-cut saw to open the bridge to traffic. The two men severed a log which blocked the roadway, thus opening the bridge to traffic from north and south.

The opening ceremonies were preceded by a colorful parade, featuring floats showing the historical past of the Town of Athabasca. One float, which carried two picturesque old-timers in buckskins, was decked out like a fur camp, symbolizing Athabasca's importance to the fur trade in the early days of its history. Another float showed a model of the ferry which had long been a landmark of the district.

The band of R.C.A.F. Tactical Air Group Headquarters, Edmonton, played during the day and the Athabasca Air Cadet Squadron was inspected.

The Athabasca River which now is spanned by the modern bridge has always been of importance to the Athabasca district. Long before 1898, the river was a main traffic channel to northern Alberta and the Mackenzie River Basin and in mid-summer the river at Athabasca was crowded with scows returning with full loads of furs collected in trade. First known as Athabasca Landing, the town's name was changed to Athabasca when it was incorporated in 1911. In 1929, settlers began opening up the bush lands around the town and farming became more important than fur trading. ●

. . . the parade passes through Athabasca

. . . to watch Jean Baptiste (left), an aged Indian, and Hon. Gordon E. Taylor, Minister of Highways saw through log . . .

. . . opening the new Athabasca Bridge to traffic . . .

Alberta Resources And Industries At A Glance

The following statistics give a concise picture of the state of the economy of the Province of Alberta in the year 1951:

AREA

	Square Miles	Acres
Land	248,800	159,232,000
Water	6,485	4,150,400
Total	**255,285**	**163,382,400**

DISPOSITION OF LAND AREA

	Acres
Farm Land—Occupied	44,459,632
—Unoccupied	42,989,368
Total	**87,449,000**
Forest Land—Productive	59,558,000
—Unproductive	24,039,000
Total	**83,597,000**
Waste and other land	19,713,000
Less: Forests and woodlands duplicated in farm land	31,527,000
TOTAL LAND AREA	**159,232,000**
In the year 1951, the acreage of farm lands under cultivation was estimated at	20,000,000
Included in the "Disposition of Land Area" are: Dominion National Parks	13,399,680
Forest Reserves	8,999,322

POPULATION

1941			1946			1951		
Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
489,583	306,586	796,169	448,934	354,396	803,330	451,313	488,188	939,501
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
426,458	369,711	796,169	423,997	379,333	803,330	492,192	447,309	939,501

FARM POPULATION

1941			1946			1951		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
211,918	172,046	383,964	185,880	149,730	335,610		(not available)	339,955

AGRICULTURE

FARMS

	1941		1946		1951	
Number	99,732	100 Percent	89,541	100 Percent	84,315	100 Percent
Operated by owner	62,366	62.53	57,450	64.16	not available	
manager	573	.57	393	.44	not available	
tenant	17,032	17.08	13,028	14.55	not available	
part owner or part tenant	19,761	19.82	18,670	20.85	not available	

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS

LIVESTOCK

	1950	1951
Cattle	1,442,900	1,482,400
Sheep	414,500	416,600
Swine	809,700	1,038,000
Horses	318,900	287,200

POULTRY

	1950	1951
Domestic fowl	8,855,000	10,328,000
Turkeys	473,000	530,000
Geese	76,000	78,000
Ducks	43,000	50,000

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

		1950		1951 (Preliminary)	
FIELD CROPS:		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Wheat	Bushels	117,000,000	$182,520,000	150,000,000	$225,000,000
Coarse Grains	Bushels	132,783,000	117,128,000	236,413,000	219,473,000
Flaxseed	Bushels	400,000	1,400,000	1,200,000	4,836,000
Potatoes	Bushels	4,245,000	4,967,000	3,219,000	4,539,000
Sugar Beets	Tons	445,000	8,121,000	349,000	5,063,000
Tame Hay and Greenfeed	Tons	2,176,000	32,920,000	3,658,000	53,706,000
Miscellaneous *		.....	6,714,000	.....	5,455,000
LIVESTOCK MARKETINGS:		Number		Number	
Cattle		470,354	92,458,000	393,870	102,007,000
Calves		137,721	12,000,000	95,404	11,321,000
Sheep and Lambs		168,177	3,745,000	96,924	2,674,000
Swine		960,608	43,229,000	957,773	50,305,000
Horses		27,551	925,000	28,418	934,000
OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:					
Dairy Products		.....	42,402,000	.....	47,258,000
Poultry Products		.....	20,266,000	.....	30,057,000
Honey and Wax		.....	655,000	.....	569,000
Wool		.....	1,100,000	.....	1,300,000
Fur Farming (pelts and animals exported)		.....	1,970,000	.....	2,826,000
TOTAL VALUE		.....	**$572,520,000**	.....	**$767,323,000**

* Includes forage crop seed, dry peas, vegetables for processing, and mustard seed.

INDUSTRIES

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PACKING
(Including Sausage and Sausage Casings, Animal Oils and Fats)

Number of Establishments	17
Annual Value of Production	$88,000,000
Average Number of Employees	3,000
Annual Pay Roll	$ 7,600,000

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Number of Establishments	111
Annual Value of Production	$ 36,000,000
Average Number of Employees	2,000
Annual Pay Roll	$ 4,100,000
Creamery Butter Production	28,960,087 pounds
Value	$ 17,810,307
Factory Cheese Production	2,079,895 pounds
Value	$ 821,568
Concentrated Milk	13,832,112 pounds

FLOUR AND FEED MILLS

Number of Establishments	70
Annual Value of Production, Flour	$ 28,300,000
Annual Value of Production, Feed	$ 10,500,000
Average Number of Employees	850
Annual Pay Roll	$ 2,000,000

BAKERY PRODUCTS
(Including Biscuits and Crackers)

Number of Establishments	190
Annual Value of Production	$ 14,000,000
Average Number of Employees	1,600
Annual Pay Roll	$ 3,100,000

BREAKFAST FOODS

Number of Establishments	3
Annual Value of Production	$ 300,000
Average Number of Employees	25
Annual Pay Roll	$ 43,000

PREPARED STOCK AND POULTRY FEED

Number of Establishments	48
Annual Value of Production	$ 8,000,000
Average Number of Employees	300
Annual Pay Roll	$ 600,000

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PREPARATIONS

Number of Establishments	8
Annual Value of Production	$ 3,300,000
Average Number of Employees	300
Annual Pay Roll	$ 500,000
Canned Vegetables	1,000,000 cases

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS
(Including Confectionery, Sugar Refining, Macaroni, Spaghetti and Malt Products)

Number of Establishments	29
Annual Value of Production	$ 24,000,000
Average Number of Employees	900
Annual Pay Roll	$ 2,000,000
Sugar Production	80,320,700 pounds
Betalasses	9,427 tons
Beet Pulp	79,515 tons

BEVERAGES — ALCOHOLIC AND CARBONATED

Number of Establishments	26
Annual Value of Production	$ 16,200,000
Average Number of Employees	950
Annual Pay Roll	$ 2,400,000

VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTS

Linseed Oil	1,650,000 gallons
Oil Cake Meal	12,000 tons

LEATHER PRODUCTS
(Including Tanneries, Etc.)

Number of Establishments	12
Annual Value of Production	$ 200,000
Average Number of Employees	70
Annual Pay Roll	$ 105,000

CLOTHING, HOSIERY, KNITTED GOODS, HATS AND CAPS, FUR GOODS

Number of Establishments	34
Annual Value of Production	$ 7,500,000
Average Number of Employees	1,000
Annual Pay Roll	$ 1,600,000

MISCELLANEOUS TEXTILES (EXCLUDING CLOTHING)
(Including Cotton and Wool Waste, Woollen Goods, Canvas Products, Bags, Etc.)

Number of Establishments	14
Annual Value of Production	$ 2,400,000
Average Number of Employees	160
Annual Pay Roll	$ 270,000

OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES ALLIED INDUSTRIES

FORESTS

Forested Area	130,000 square miles
Number of Saw Mills (not including 300 portable saw mills)	600
Production of Lumber	370,000,000 f.b.m.
Value	$ 14,800,000

MINERALS

Comprises Coal, Petroleum, Natural Gas, Clays, Lime, Stone, Cement, Salt, Sand, Gravel

Total Value of Production $173,230,766

COAL

Number of Coal Mines		206
Annual Production	7,661,276 tons	$ 41,000,953
Average Number of Employees		8,000
Annual Pay Roll		$ 20,755,000

More than three-quarters of Canada's coal reserves are in Alberta. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates the total reserves at present accessible in the Province at 47,874,300,000 tons which are classified as 59 percent bituminous, 23 percent sub-bituminous, and 18 percent lignite or domestic.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Average Number of Employees	8,000
Annual Pay Roll	$ 26,630,000

PETROLEUM

Number of Wells Producing or Capable of Being Operated		2,900
Annual Production	46,000,000 barrels	$116,000,000

Alberta produced 96.5 percent of Canada's petroleum in 1951, and the reserves are estimated conservatively at over a billion barrels.

NATURAL GAS

Annual Production	85,000,000 Mcf	$ 4,200,000

In 1951 Alberta produced about 90 percent of Canada's natural gas.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Number of Refineries	12
Annual Production	550,000,000 gallons
Value of Sales, Petroleum Products, Refined	$ 80,000,000
Average Number of Employees	900
Annual Pay Roll	$ 2,700,000

SALT

Annual Production	20,000 tons
Wellhead Valuation	$ 200,000
Employees	50

OTHER INDUSTRIES

GAME AND FUR

Alberta furs—Ermine, fox, muskrat, beaver, squirrel, mink, etc.

WILD LIFE

Annual production of furs—	
Number of pelts	1,952,572
Value	$ 1,969,209

FUR FARMS

Number of fur farms	1,034
Annual production of fur—	
Animals pelted	139,444
Value of pelts	$ 2,749,974

FUR GOODS

Number of Establishments	10
Value of Annual Production	$ 344,000
Average Number of Employees	50
Annual Pay Roll	$ 87,000

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Annual Production of Fish	8,399,088 pounds
Market Value	$ 862,327

Alberta fish: Whitefish, trout, perch, tullibee, pickerel, pike, etc.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS

Number of Plants	90
Annual Production of Electrical Energy	1,000,000,000 k.w.h.
Revenue Earned	$ 19,680,000
Average number of employees	1,500
Annual Pay Roll	$ 3,415,000

WATER POWER

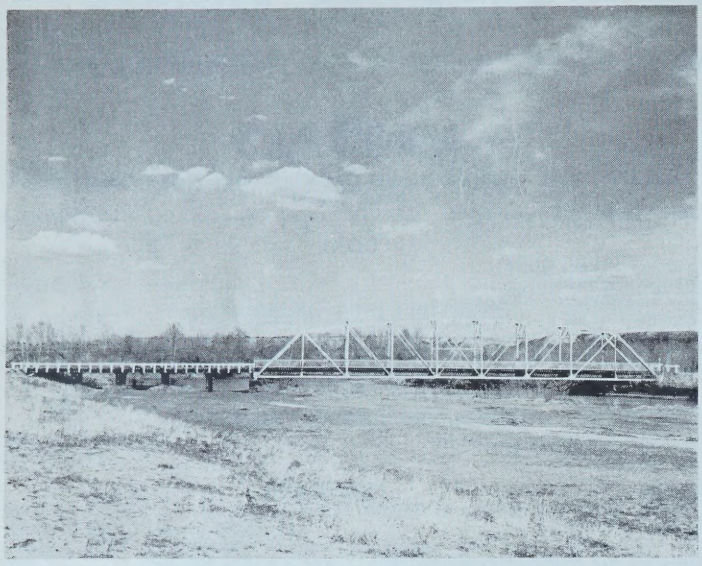
Potential water power in Alberta is given at 463,000 horse power ordinary minimum flow or 1,208,880 horse power at ordinary six-month flow. Horse power at present developed and in use is given at 208,000.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

TRADE AND COMMERCE

	1950	1951
Manufacturing Industries— (Value of Production)	$ 410,000,000	$ 440,000,000
Wholesale Trade	$ 430,438,902	$ 480,000,000
Retail Trade	$ 747,690,000	$ 831,317,000
Bank Clearings	$2,626,870,717	$2,963,850,119
Bank Debits	$5,631,919,969	$6,241,574,585
Building Permits, Alberta (four cities)	$ 78,182,616	$ 65,146,774
Building Permits, Alberta (99 municipalities)	$ 89,614,656	$ 77,384,400
Construction (contracts awarded)	$ 134,878,500	$ 183,075,100
Custom Duty Receipts	$ 7,327,051	$ 10,990,155
Highways, gravelled and hard surfaced, miles	18,066	20,155
Railway Mileage, miles	5,805	5,808

The Changing Face Of Alberta



The steel of this Alberta Government bridge on No. 2 Highway between Fort Macleod and Cardston gleams in the bright morning sunshine, providing evidence of the changes the years have brought to this area. The Belly River still flows through the picturesque buttes and rolling plains of this area of southern Alberta much as it did in the days when the post of Fort Standoff stood near its banks but progress has brought a modern bridge. The old fort has long since disappeared and is only preserved by the name of Standoff which the bridge crossing bears.

Keg River Boy Wins Poster Contest

Larone Ferguson, a 15-year-old Metis boy from Keg River, has been awarded first prize in a poster contest sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association to encourage forest conservation in the West.

The contest was open to all school pupils in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan who wished to design posters stressing the theme of forest conservation. A total of 947 posters were entered in the contest, of which 382 came from Alberta.

Larone was presented with a cheque for $50 recently by L. Gauthier, of Peace River, a timber inspector of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests. The boy received a $25 grand prize for the best poster in the Prairie Provinces as well as an extra $25 prize for the best poster submitted from Alberta.

He is one of a family of 12 children and attends a one-room school at Keg River. His father is a trapper who in 1950 narrowly escaped death in a bush fire.

Provincial Institute Enlarging Electronics Training Facilities

Increasing opportunities in the radio and electronics field has led the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art to expand its radio training facilities.

The radio shop facilities are being doubled in size and additional equipment is being installed to provide more thorough training in frequency modulation, industrial electronics and high frequency techniques.

The new equipment will enable the Institute to expand the radio course into a complete two-year course in radio and electronics in the fall of 1952. The theory of television and television receiver maintenance and installation will be taught as part of the course so that trained television men will be available when television comes to Alberta.

The second year of the course will include training in special fields such as frequency modulation, television, transmitter maintenance, industrial electronics, antennas, and high frequency techniques. Radio technicians with previous training or experience may enroll for part or all of the second year's course.

COMING EVENTS

During the next few months Alberta will be the scene of many events of provincial, national and international interest. Within Our Borders will list all COMING EVENTS from May through September. Information should be forwarded to Within Our Borders, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

June 16–18	*Poster Advertising Association*	*Jasper Park Lodge JASPER*
June 17	*Dairy Field Day*	*MILLET*
June 17–21	*Edmonton Rodeo*	*EDMONTON*
June 18–21	*Association of Canadian Fire Marshals*	*JASPER*
June 19–20	*Institute of Chartered Accountants*	*Macdonald Hotel EDMONTON*
June 21	*Dairy Field Day*	*GRAND CENTRE*
June 23–25	*Lethbridge Fair*	*LETHBRIDGE*
June 19–23	*Canadian Hotel Association*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 22–25	*Canadian Ophthalmological and Otolaryngological Association*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 22–25	*Junior Chamber of Commerce of Canada*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 22–25	*Mutual Life of Canada*	*Jasper Park Lodge JASPER*
June 22–27	*Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating*	*Jasper Park Lodge JASPER*
June 25–28	*Asphalt Institute*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 25	*Lousana Rodeo*	*LOUSANA*
June 26–28	*Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 26–28	*Law Society of Alberta*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 29–July 2	*Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities*	*Palliser Hotel CALGARY*
June 29–July 2	*Canadian Electrical Association*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
June 30	*Dairy Field Day*	*BENTLEY*
June 30–July 1	*Combined Fort Macleod and Claresholm Rodeo*	*CLARESHOLM*
July 1	*Ponoka Stampede*	*PONOKA*
July 1	*Millarville Races*	*MILLARVILLE*
July 2	*High River Stampede*	*HIGH RIVER*
July 2– 3	*Stettler Stampede*	*STETTLER*
July 2– 5	*Coleman Stampede*	*COLEMAN*
July 3— 5	*Devon Oil Show*	*DEVON*
July 5	*Dairy Field Day*	*LETHBRIDGE*
July 7–12	*Calgary Stampede*	*CALGARY*
July 15–16	*Cardston Rodeo*	*CARDSTON*
July 14–19	*Edmonton Exhibition*	*EDMONTON*

Proper Planting Essential To Successful Tree Survival

More than 2,000,000 trees from forest nursery stations at Indian Head, Sask., and Brooks and Oliver, Alberta, will arrive for planting on Alberta farms this year. These trees must be cared for properly if they are to survive.

Proper planting is essential, according to P. D. McCalla, Supervisor of Horticulture for the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Busy farmers who do not have time to plant all their trees immediately should plant as many as they can and heel in the remainder in a sheltered spot, such as the north side of a building or a well protected garden enclosure. Heeled in trees will remain unharmed for several days.

To heel in, plough a furrow four to six inches deep and space the roots along the furrow. Then replace the furrow slice and pack the soil around the roots.

The cool of the evening is the best time for planting. The main things to watch are digging a hole large enough to accommodate the roots without crowding, planting the tree a little deeper than it was planted originally, using good moist soil against the roots and tramping and packing the soil around the roots. Pouring a pail or two or water around the roots after planting also helps.

For planting poplar and willow cuttings, dig with a shovel at an angle of 45 degrees, pry the handle up and insert the cutting under the blade of the shovel. Tramp and pack the soil back over the cutting, making sure that one leaf of the cutting is above ground.

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

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